

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13, 15 and 16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 11 and 13 are amended; new claims 15 and 16 are added; and claims 12 and 14 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein.

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 9, 11 and 13 and for new claims 15 and 16 can be found in the specification as originally filed, for example at paragraphs [0014], [0022], [0026], [0028], [0038], [0051] and [0052], and in claims 1, 9 and 11-14 as originally filed. No new matter is added.

In addition, the specification is amended. Support for the amendments to the specification can be found in the specification as originally filed, for example at paragraphs [0014], [0022], [0026] and [0028]. No new matter is added by these amendments.

I. Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification for various informalities. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the objections, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification correct any informalities. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the specification are respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

A. First Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with this rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 11 clearly complies with the written description requirement under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with these rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 1, 9 and 11 overcome the rejections. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

III. Objections to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claims 12-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 12-14 contain allowable subject matter. New independent claim 15 sets forth the subject matter of original claim 12. Claim 13 and new claim 16 depend from claim 15. Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least the same reasons that original claim 12 is patentable, new claim 15, and its dependent claims 13 and 16, are patentable.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-11 would be allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is overcome. Because the rejection is overcome for the reasons described above, claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11, 13, 15 and 16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Julie M. Seaman
Registration No. 51,156

JAO:JMS/jms

Date: December 3, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--